

23 April 1966

Dear George,

STAT I am taking advantage of [] TDY to get this to you by safe hand.

STAT As you know, the Director has created a special staff element reporting directly to him to keep a general supervisory eye on all aspects of the Agency's Vietnam effort and to represent him in the Agency in various high-level deliberations on Vietnam carried out downtown. From its inception until now this staff has been headed by Peer. He will be leaving very shortly. I will be taking over, at least for a while, though [] may be given the job after he returns and is settled several months from now.

STAT All of this relates very directly to you and to your future. [] STAT [] is going back to OCI and his departure, in my mind, makes it all the more imperative that we get you to join our happy band. I don't want to do something that would distress you and I know that any attempt on our part to snatch your body will cause anguished screams of rage from OCI and R. J. Smith. Nevertheless, I feel very strongly that this staff is the place for your unrivaled background knowledge and imaginative ideas could be used to best advantage for the total Agency and U. S. Government effort. I also feel that a billet here would give you the most scope for whatever you yourself may want to do or undertake.

STAT The point of this letter, thus, is to tender you a very sincere invitation to join us. I am sure [] will second this and you may want to take the matter up privately with him. I will handle the administrative mechanics of body snatching at this end, but before embarking down that road, I would like an expression of your own personal wishes.

STAT As you may know, OCI has recently undergone a drastic re-organization. A Far East area under [] which comprises three divisions (China, Indochina, and something called "The Orient") has been created. The Indochina division is headed by [] STAT and if you want back to OCI to work on Vietnam you would almost STAT certainly be working under him.

What I would like you to do here for us is to join me in providing Helms, the Director, and the Agency with the continuing interpretive guidance on all matters relating to Vietnam and assist me in carrying the representational role downtown. In this latter capacity, I can assure you that our opinions are welcome -- and not just on technical matters for which we have parochial bureaucratic responsibility. I can also assure you that in the various fora in which we operate, we have an unrivaled opportunity for middle level officers to make our views count and influence courses of action.

In short, a post on this staff is tailor-made to your talents and temperament. Needless to say, I personally would be delighted to have you working with me. I would appreciate it if you would drop me a quiet line to my home address and let me know your views on this subject as soon as is conveniently possible.

With all best regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

George

Mr. George A. Carver, Jr.



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